

**CANTON JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT  
AND  
CANTON PARKS COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
CANTON, OHIO  
July 23, 2009**

A special meeting between the Canton Joint Recreation District and the Canton Park Commission was held Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 4:30 p.m., in the Recreation Department's meeting room.

**Attendance: Canton Joint Recreation District** – Mr. James Carman, Mr. Ron Duff, Mr. Jim Lindesmith, Mr. Don Peterson, Ms. Julie Sparks, Ms. Nadine Sawaya, Mr. Tim Trbovich, Mr. Jim Reinhard and Ms. Lori King; **Canton Park Commission** – Mr. Lon Winberry, Mr. Doug Perry, Mr. Doug Foltz and Mr. Dan Gravila; **City of Canton** – Mr. Jim Griffin.

**Not in Attendance: Canton Park Commission** - Mr. Jack Angelo and Mr. Andrew Black; **City of Canton** – Mayor William J. Healy, Mr. Joe Carbenia and Mr. Donald Casar.

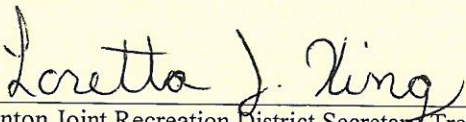
The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Joint Recreation District and Park Commission's futures in Canton and the viability of merging the two organizations.

Mr. Lindesmith, Canton Joint Recreation District Board President, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance. A discussion was then entered into regarding the similarities and differences between the two organizations. It was noted that some differences, like retirement programs and the fact that one is a civil service organization with union employees while the other is a non-civil service organization with non-union employees, could make the legislature of merging the two entities difficult. In addition, Mr. Perry stated that there is little overlap in the responsibilities of the two organizations.

It was also noted that currently the Park Commission is funded by the City of Canton General Fund while the Joint Recreation District is funded by a 1 mil tax levy. A discussion was then entered into regarding both the feasibility of the Park Commission putting a new tax levy on the ballot to acquire funding separate from City of Canton's General Fund and of the Joint Recreation District requesting a higher millage from taxpayers to encompass the funding for both organizations in the case of a merger between them. The general consensus was that the current economic climate is not conducive to a new tax levy or a higher levy being passed. However, a question was raised as to the credibility of an assumption that the citizens of Canton would not support a stand-alone park levy. Mr. Peterson suggested that it may be prudent to survey Canton taxpayers. Ms. Sawaya added that the Ohio Parks and Recreation has resources available to help communities in conducting surveys.

Mr. Peterson then stated that at the very least a committee should be formed to investigate the pros and cons of merging the two organizations. Consequently, a committee consisting of Mr. Peterson, Mr. Perry and Ms. Sparks was formed and, at the conclusion of its investigation, will inform the Canton Park Commission and the Canton Joint Recreation District of its findings.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

  
Canton Joint Recreation District Secretary-Treasurer